

# Point Three



The Torch magazine  
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# Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

## Cover Picture

Each Boxing Day, Bingham (Notts) Branches mount an 'It's a Knockout' competition. This last year, eight local teams and hundreds of spectators braved the cold for two hours of fun.

Photo: Newark Advertiser

# Personal View

## Onward, Christian Soldiers!

I joined Toc H in the early 30s and after the war worked away from home a good deal. When I did eventually settle down in this area, I found that the Branch had closed down. From my recollections of its activities on prior visits, I can hardly say that I was surprised. Now that I have retired and can find the time to take an active part again, I have re-joined a Toc H Branch, but feel bound to say that I am anything but happy with what I have found.

The following is a much edited version of a talk I gave some little time ago:  
*'We seem to have been trying for too long to mark time, but there is no such thing as marking time. The present becomes immediately the past. We either go forward into the future or, looking back, become a thing of the past. I do not think it is unfair to say that as a Movement we are stagnating – we seem to have lost all momentum. I do not know what the average age is, but at a guess I would say it is far too high. We also do not seem to spend much time on the eternal realities. There is a vast amount of untapped good will available and we seem to be doing nothing about it. We seem to have lost all credence in the eyes of the public – ask any person in the street, 'What is Toc H?' and I doubt if you will get a sensible answer from 99.9%. This is ridiculous for a society that has been a going concern since long before the war. I very much agree with Point Three of October 1983, about our ex-service image; this may go down well in the south where they seem to like that sort of thing, but it has little or no relevance here up north. We do not seem to be able to cope with the changing times. When we join Toc H we pledge ourselves to listen now and always for the voice of God, to know His will and to do it. We are asked, "What is service?" and the expected answer is, "The rent we pay for our room on earth". We may listen for His voice, we may think that we know His will, but do we do it? Do we pay our rent for our room on earth? We may, but it is in pence rather than pounds. We obviously take no account of inflation. I blame head office as much or more so than anybody else for not having that breadth of vision and the will to forcefully implement it that would keep this Movement as a viable proposition. I am sure we have sat on the fence for far too long. I suggest that we study the issues of the day more fully remembering that the version that is presented to us by the media is at best one-sided, and at worst deliberately misleading. We should make up our minds about these matters viewed from an entirely Christian standpoint and see how they measure up to our faith in the Gospel of Jesus. If they don't, we should be prepared to say so loud and clear. When I think of butter mountains in one country, and little children starving to death for the want of a crust of bread in another, it makes my blood boil, yet we sit comfortably on the fence. Where our faith is concerned, if we are not of one mind, then we should be. If we do not speak with one voice then we should do. If we remain silent when we should speak out we are equally guilty, and we are not doing His work here on earth as we promised.*

*'It is essential that we project a truly Christian, caring, brotherly image, and we can't do that by remaining silent. If publicity is the name of the game, then let us use it to our advantage. There is no shortage of people only too ready to use it to our disadvantage. Perhaps we should remember that old music hall saying, "She that shouts loudest gets heard first". I am not saying that we can or will change the world, but we can add our widow's mite. Witnessing humbly may mean not shouting about our good deeds; it does not mean suffocating our beliefs or faith, and if these few words of mine have given you food for thought then my objective has been achieved.*

*'Come then, to the battle...'*

Roland Harris

April Fool's Day probably descends from one of the pagan Roman festivals held in April – in honour of Ceres (4 April), to celebrate with wine the city's birthday (21 April) and the uproarious Floralia which spread over the month's last four days. The word April (Latin 'aperire') names the time of the year when plants begin to 'open'. Since, in the old Roman calendar, New Year's Day fell on 25 March, the feast's octave, when celebrations reached their height, was 1 April. In many of these spring festivals (including India's 'Huli' which has its climax on the last day of March), a common game is to make a fool of someone by sending him on a pointless errand. Some claim that this mockingly commemorates Christ's being sent backwards and forwards from Annas to Caiaphas and Herod to Pilate. But the custom is probably older. In England, general feasting on 1 April is an ancient practice, though the April fool tradition seems only 200 years old. In France, I learn, the April fool is 'un poisson d'avril' and in Scotland a 'gowk' (cuckoo).



# BLIND VISIT CUDDESDON

by Matthew Plumridge

Owing to a massive renovation programme at the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, the normal annual Toc H summer project and winter reunion within the school was not possible last year . . . Not wanting to give up this very valuable service Toc H had given the blind, we decided to organise a week away for a number of the residents who needed a break, and for those who would not normally have a holiday.

There were 12 blind and multiple-handicapped adults and 11 volunteers, including the education officer from the blind school. Our aims were to give each of the residents a holiday with a choice plus the individual attention they would not normally receive. We stayed at Cuddesdon House, near Oxford — mainly because of its peace and comfort and its position, and because it is such an easy house to find your way around.

As some of the residents had never been on holiday before, we wanted to organise some interesting activities with a difference. On the Sunday, we went to the various churches in the area where we were all made very welcome. The United Reformed Church in Wheatley asked us to stay for coffee afterwards, and we managed to persuade one of the ladies to come and sing to us that evening with her son. Various trips throughout the week included Blenheim Palace, with its miniature railway, RAF Abingdon, with a visit to the maintenance hangars (where the blind folk could touch all the main parts of the fighter planes), a boat trip down the Thames, the Courage Brewery Shire Horse Centre and Cogges Farm Museum.

We encouraged as many visitors as possible to join us during the week, because the one thing the blind folk don't get a lot of, is personal contact and attention. They seemed to respond to the local people very well. In the evenings, we had a local historian give us a talk about Cuddesdon and Wheatley, a barbeque and Scottish dancing, North Hinksey and Buckingham Branches entertained us and there were trips to the local pub and a party on the last night. As well as being a holiday, we wanted the week to be educational, so we taught the blind folk such basic skills as washing up, laying tables, and making beds — all normally done for them. They greatly appreciated this.

Although I have had a lot of contact with the residents from the school before, they surprised us all by finding their way around the house so quickly. We had made provision for them to get to know their way around, up until about Wednesday, but they seemed to manage it quite well by Monday.

I would like to thank all those who were involved in the week's holiday — the Surrey Projects Committee and the Regional Projects Committee, and the Branches and staff at Cuddesdon for showing such an interest in the blind, as well as being so helpful. My main thanks go to Mair Davies, my fellow project leader, without whom the project would not have been so successful.

## Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during January/February.

- 6 — Mid Salop District
- 3 — Garforth (W), Sittingbourne (J)
- 2 — Clacton-on-Sea (M), Crewkerne (J), Plympton (W)
- 1 — Belfairs (W), Cromwell District, Eyemouth (J), Llandrindod Wells (J), Newport (Gwent) (M), Richmond (J), Tower Hill (J), Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale District, Whitstable (M)

A warm welcome to 28 new members

## For your diary

### Alison House

11-18 August 1984

Family holiday week at Alison House, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire, hosted by Beds, Herts and Bucks Area. Single room £61, shared room £57, from Sat pm until Sat am. A £10 deposit (payable to Grace Clayton) enclosing a SAE stating accommodation required, to:

Mrs Grace Clayton, Chairman SE Herts District, 7 Warren Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 2QJ. Tel: St Albans 58117.

*There was one very unusual feature of the Christmas party mounted by Uckfield Branch at a local old people's home. The centre piece was a mobile (built round a wheelchair) replica of the carpenter's bench altar in the Old House.*



Photo: Kent & Sussex Courier



# Round and about

## 'Granny Vera's Walk'

Do you remember Vera Andrews' letter (*Point Three*, November 1983, p13)? She told us then of her plan to walk round the whole coastline of England, Scotland and Wales in a bid to raise funds for the Cancer Research Campaign.

It's already nearly time to start! Vera plans to set off from Clacton on her 3,600 miles on 31 March — complete with 30lb backpack and CB radio for emergencies. She intends to complete the round trip with a civic reception at Clacton's Town Hall on 8 November.

Vera has dreamed of this walk for more than 30 years. When her husband died of cancer nearly two years ago, she determined both to realise this dream and to raise funds for cancer research through sponsorship — she is aiming at £50,000. Watch out for 'Granny Vera'!

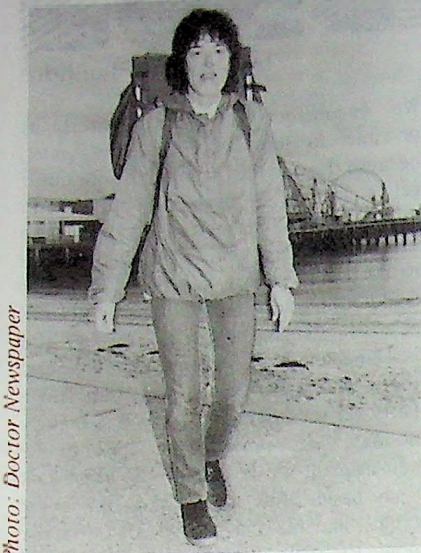


Photo: Doctor Newspaper

## We're off to see the Wizard!

Bill Boyd (Treasurer, Clacton-on-Sea Men's Branch) and his wife Vi (Clacton-on-Sea Women's Branch) organised an outing for Clacton's pensioners which was inspired by an overseas member visiting the town. The pensioners — a full coach load — met each other for the first time when Toc H took them to Colchester's Mercury Theatre to see *The Wizard of Oz*. Their friendship was 'cemented' afterwards by a splendid meal at Clacton's Waverley Hotel.



Photo: East Essex Gazette

## Only one a year?

Our correspondent Ted Gorf of Gillingham tells us of the 1984 version of the annual New Year Party mounted by Wigmore & Rainham's Men's and Women's Branches. Some 135 guests had an evening of games and dancing and a first class supper. But they thought of others, too, and raised more than £260 for the British Diabetic Association.

## Volunteers 'on the road'!

A group of Toc H volunteers staged a mobile pantomime over Christmas to tour old folks' homes and hospitals for the mentally handicapped. As far as I can gather from the reports, the show was a mixture of old time music hall and custard pie farce, interspersed with villainous characters from the pages of Charles Dickens! The show was planned and performed and the scenery painted by the recently formed Guildford Toc H Action Group. Local amateur theatre companies provided lighting. For some personal views, see the two features ('Thoughts from a Leader' and 'Thoughts from a Volunteer') elsewhere in this issue.

## Use your local paper!

Last December, the Walsall Observer published a piece about a Toc H Services Club (Walsall House) set up in Tunis during WW2. This gave the Chairman of Walsall Branch the opportunity to write to the paper, setting out an accurate account of the role of Toc H and a potted history of the Movement. But it also revived some WW1 memories. Arthur Fenton told the newspaper of his first visit to the Old House. Given a day's leave from the front, he planned to have a meal with the Salvation Army in Poperinge. However, his friends persuaded him to try Talbot House instead and he has never forgotten the experience. After a bath and change of clothing, he enjoyed a feast of pork chops for a shilling (5p!). 'It wasn't like army rations' recalled Mr Fenton. 'It was a really good meal!'

Photo: Kent & Sussex Courier

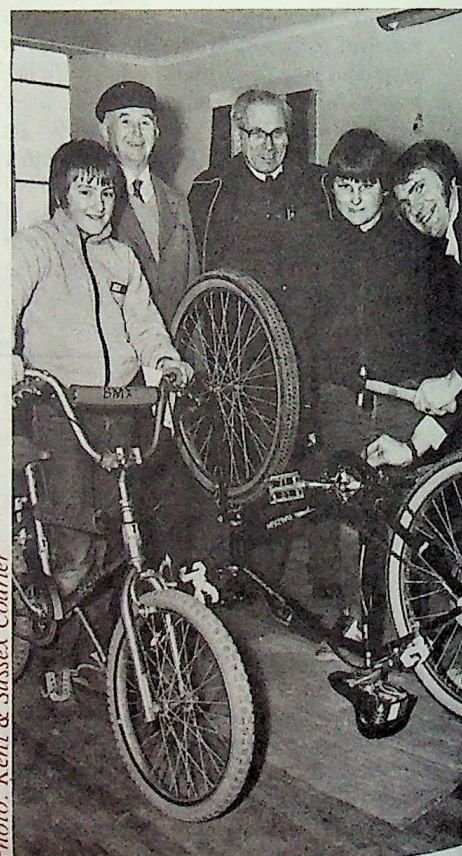
Don't compete,  
co-operate!

Cromer (Norfolk) Men's Branch tell us of an unusual twist to one of their normal Branch activities. Each year, in late January, they mount a party for lonely, local people — an ordinary enough Branch job. But this year, they were able greatly to improve the service by doing it jointly with Rotary. Rotarians fetched and carried the guests from door to door (on an Arctic evening, with ice underfoot), engaged a top quality concert party, gave a handsome donation towards the overall cost and — most importantly — joined in the fun and games. The result was a marvellous party and a spread of understanding of Toc H in the district.

There must be many Branches working with non-Toc H partners — we carried a picture story of West Central Branch's experience in our November 1983 issue and there is the Pickering story elsewhere in this issue. If you, too, are in partnership, why not write to tell us about it?

## There are so many ways to help

Just after Christmas, Uckfield Branch devoted a full Saturday to carrying out an unusual service. In conjunction with their local crime prevention department, they set up a bicycle coding centre and invited all children who had been given bicycles for Christmas to call in and have their post code immovably stamped on their machines.





# LEADING QUESTIONS!

by Rob Dixon

When your motorbike breaks down in the middle of nowhere and it doesn't bother you, the chances are that you're in a pretty interesting state of mind. The most recent time this happened to me was coming back from the NE Region's leadership training weekend at Colsterdale, held over a weekend last November. I can't help thinking that when technicalities such as getting home take second place to mulling over the experiences of the last two days, it's safe to say 'it was a good weekend'!

Sixteen people from various parts of the Region got together to... and this is where I falter. To 'train' leaders? Perhaps. To discuss leadership? Certainly, but more than that. To take part in the 'project experience', (or, as Branch members might refer to it, the 'Toc H spirit')? More likely. (No man, put your whisky down.) Which just goes to show (to me anyway) that whatever the 'purpose' of the weekend, we didn't forget to enjoy it. In fact, all sorts of leadership training did get done too, which was a nice bonus, but no excuse for taking things too seriously. Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that people should just mess about, but I do believe that if you aren't enjoying it, you're not doing it right.

Rather than give a blow by blow account (which might be of interest to 15 other people) I thought I might put down a few of the ideas that were floating around that weekend, and in particular the ones that seemed significant to me. These

revolve around whether it's possible to tell people how to run projects, and if it is, whether it's a good idea. There was a lot of disagreement on this, which was nice. In fact, when I come to think of it there was a lot of disagreement on all sorts of things, which was great. I like disagreement. The only person I agreed with was Nigel, and I've been disagreeing with him for two years now, which is quite enough. The best thing about all this argument, of course, is that no-one is right; or perhaps everyone is right. In discussing the 'project experience' it was suggested that it could not be defined, and that the more you try to define it, the more it slips through your fingers. We all agreed on that, but then went ahead and tried to define it anyway!

Or there was the point which someone made, that the first night of a project is very important in the building of relationships between people, as they get to know each other. It would therefore seem to be an advantage to have a long first night. Part of our group put this to the test by making the Friday night last until 5 am on Sunday. Yes, they all agreed, it works.

Then you get your leaders. It came as no surprise to learn that there are different types of leader, right from 'autocrat', through 'diplomat' to 'democrat' (not counting Eric's suggestion of 'acrobat'). The tricky bit is accepting that any one leader is a mix of all these; 'Yes, he's an autocratically diplomatic democrat...', which left me wondering if we had said

anything of use after all. Predominantly undiplomatic, I suppose.

But why have a leader at all? Why can't everybody play? The next idea was for a 'volunteers' co-operative', where everyone is equally to blame when things go wrong. The beauty of this idea is that when the minibus fails to arrive, you can say that someone else should have booked it. Which is not to confuse 'leadership' with 'administration'; at which point one of those little light bulbs came on over my head and I thought 'ahhh...'. There's a reliance on people, a wish to follow a person who has taken on a label saying 'leader' or 'chairman', and this isn't just on projects. Is it right that a Branch should be led by people appointed to carry out certain administrative tasks? I think not; it is for all to lead if they wish. The step to projects is a simple one. The difficulty is being stuck with a certain way of looking at the problem; sort of in a rut. Time to climb (out). Like strive for five (or has it gone up to ten now?). Time to climb. A radically different sort of project might be useful in trying to encourage a more open minded approach to leading them.

So how do you lead a project? Well we did discuss it at length. I think in the end though it's too individual a thing. I don't think long lists of 'how to' instructions are much use, though it is important to know what rules are actually laid down regarding certain types of incident. What might be more useful is a sort of '1001 questions for project leaders' which is more likely to encourage people to think for themselves on how to deal with situations they might not have thought of. No answers, of course, though a guide might point out the ways in which different types of leader might answer — democrat, diplomat and so on.

Me? Acrobat, mate.

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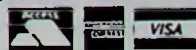
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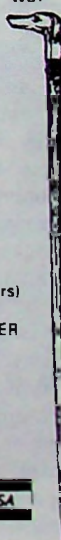
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# 'We'd love to go, but...'

by Colin Rudd

How often do we hear those words when we are trying to get a party together to go to one or another of Toc H's Centres! They are followed by one or another of the many reasons which are given for not joining such a party, and often the reason is the expense. Of course, the cost of using our Centres does go up – it must, both with the rise in the cost of living and with the improved facilities which are being offered. I shall be offering some suggestions at the end of this article as to how the total cost of a week or weekend at Cuddesdon House can be reduced: some of those suggestions will probably apply to other Centres too.

But why should people be asked to come at all? On what grounds do we dare to suggest that someone should give up his or her precious spare time and hard won cash to come to a Toc H Centre for a week or weekend when a few days in a hotel or guest house might not cost all that much more? What do we want people to come to Cuddesdon for?

There are, of course, many attractive features about all our Centres. They are all set in beautiful surroundings, and here at Cuddesdon we can offer both the quiet of the countryside and the busy life and the culture of Oxford – in themselves, compelling reasons for coming here.

But there is more. At the heart of Toc H is a commitment to the idea of community – not only do we *do* things together, but as a movement we *are* something together. That's very difficult to describe, but I have an idea that those who have already been to one of the Day Conferences organised for this year will know what I mean. Most people who have been on projects have also experienced the 'being' as well as the 'doing' that is Toc H, and one of the reasons why we normally insist on projects being residential is that a sense of community and deep fellowship is more readily discovered and experienced when people are living together. Given the beginnings of Toc H in the residential community of Talbot House, and our subsequent history in Marks and now in Community Houses, this value in the residential experience should come as no surprise. Our centres exist in large measure, to give people the opportunity to have that experience, at least for a short time. Many, having once found it, come back often to find it again and again, frequently with different groups of people each time.

A phenomenon which has recently been

observed in Toc H is that of hundreds of young people who have been involved in projects and are now scattered all over the country, have shared a common experience, know each other to a remarkable degree, and will travel considerable distances simply in order to be together. The parochialism of our Regions means nothing to them – they simply transcend it! How sad that that should have become particularly noteworthy in the life of Toc H. It could be part of the experience of every member – and how much more alive we would be if it were. Of course, the ease of movement which young people enjoy becomes curtailed with jobs and marriage and family, but it need not be lost altogether. Our Centres provide places where people of all ages can come together for a few days from anywhere at all in the country. Groups do not have to be confined to Regions or Districts or Branches, or even to members. All are welcome, and we would love to have the opportunity to welcome more.

What can you do when you get to a Centre?

Well, of course, each Centre offers different activities and facilities, and details must be obtained from whichever Centre you wish to use. Speaking for Cuddesdon, you have the opportunity there to arrange your own programme, or to join in one of the events already planned: a full programme of events is available from the Centre. If you are planning your own week or weekend we shall be very glad to offer all the help we can.

And why not try something different for a change? Our weekends are fairly fully booked for this year, but we have many spaces midweek. There are many now for whom a midweek stay would be quite possible – people who have retired, or are redundant, or have taken early retirement, or who are unemployed. There are all kinds of groups of people who are not restricted to weekends who might value an opportunity of a few days at Cuddesdon, either for a proper conference or for a holiday, or for a mixture of both. Not only will you be making good use of the Centre, but you will be making an invaluable contribution to a number of people's lives.

Of course, cost is a problem, particularly when dealing with those who are unemployed, redundant or retired. There is much here that Branches could do to help. If yours is a Branch holding

moderate, or even large, sums of money, try investing some in some people – sponsor a stay at Cuddesdon for those whom you think would benefit. Most Districts and Branches have good memories of times when they did this in the past – when they made an act of faith, launched out into the deep and invested some time and a little money in people. Many now in Toc H were drawn in in just that way. Why have we stopped doing it? A part of the answer to the problem of cost lies with Branches and their willingness to invest in people.

The Friends of Cuddesdon House have themselves recently taken the decision to invest in people, and have set up a Bursary Fund. It will be possible to obtain a grant to help with the cost of time spent at Cuddesdon for groups or individuals who particularly need help. Applications should be made to the Centre where an immediate decision can be made. We would like to spend this money, so don't be afraid to ask!

But even if you can't get sponsorship from a Branch or the Bursary Fund there are still ways in which you can save on the total cost of a weekend or week. With the rising cost of transport, travelling to and from Cuddesdon can represent a considerable proportion of the cost of staying here. You can make quite effective savings if you are prepared to consider not using your car. Quite a lot of car sharing goes on already, of course, but more groups could save on costs in this way. For those who hold rail cards, travel by train can provide a reasonably inexpensive way of getting to Oxford, which is well served by train services from most parts of the country. Even if you don't have a rail card reductions are often generous for party travel. Another way of getting to Oxford is by bus or coach – an express coach service to Oxford operates from London and many other cities, providing a cheap form of travel. A major advantage of using public transport where possible is that you can get here without a sometimes long and tiring drive, which will loom over you as your stay draws to an end!

But what happens when you get to Oxford? There are a number of possibilities. If you are coming for just a weekend you will probably find that our minibus is sufficient for your needs. We can meet you at a bus or rail station, bring you to Cuddesdon, and take you wherever you wish to go during the weekend. If your stay is going to be longer, we can help you with information



# From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



## Reflections on the future

The fact that you are reading this means that we have at least survived the first quarter of the long dreaded year 1984. And it means that, well into my last year as Director, I am something of a 'lame duck' (I understand the 'lame' but why 'duck', I wonder?) so perhaps I may be allowed to speculate on the possible shape of the Movement in the 1990's. I am no futurologist — the name with which gazers into crystal balls now lay claim to scientific respectability — but aspects of the future have already been born. In order to look forward you have to start by accurately discerning the present. What do we see, as we look around us? In trying to answer that question I can only speak personally — though the views I will try to share are at some points echoed in the discussions currently taking place in the Central Executive.

On the one hand we see a Movement in decline. Branches close, other Branches struggle on with a handful

of aging members. Central Councillors seem to be increasingly difficult to find. People are too few, and too tired, to take any major new initiatives and wonder, sadly, whether there will still be a Movement at the end of the century. And yet, on the other hand, there are, if we have eyes to see, signs of a kind of parallel Movement, an 'alternative' Toc H, which is flourishing and growing.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that there'll be no Branches in 1990 — there are plenty of Branches which are active and attracting new people and new Branches are still being formed. It seems clear to me, however, that it will no longer be possible to claim that Branches are the only *real* expressions of Toc H. And the new growth is now so well established that it will surely continue to expand. The only question is: will we allow it to become in truth a separate Movement or will we welcome it joyfully into the Family?

Where is this new growth to be seen? Partly in the various new kinds of groups which are coming into being, of which the most publicised, but by no means the only examples are the Friendship Circles in the North East. Their pattern of life is different from that of the traditional Branch but it is marked by a deep caring. They are not better than Branches — nor I believe, worse — simply different. They feel themselves to be very much part of the Family. Are we prepared to welcome them fully as such?

And the new growth is to be seen in the increasing number of free floating, but deeply committed, young people who are now a significant part of the Toc H scene. Their participation is not through a regular weekly meeting with one group of people but through projects and weekend activities with many different groups of people. Again, I'm not suggesting that one pattern is better than another. I'm simply pointing to the existence of two different patterns of membership, both of which have real

value. There is great strength in the loyal commitment demanded, week by week and year by year, by the first, the traditional pattern. There is also, I believe, great strength in the variety of experiences offered by the second; and it, too demands a deep sense of commitment.

What I see emerging, then, alongside — not instead of — the traditional pattern are new kinds of Toc H units and new ways in which individuals are active in the Movement. But our existing structure, naturally enough, does not cater for this new growth. We still, for instance, insist on registering members in Branches — even if that is sometimes in those often somewhat mythical entities, District Branches. And the new growth is therefore under represented at the decision making levels of the Movement. Those involved are second class citizens rather than fully participating family members. That is why the Central Executive has taken the radical decision to invite representatives of this 'parallel' Toc H to share this year's Central Council so that together we can start to discuss the future shape of the Movement to which we are all committed — and so that we can all feel the excitement of these new developments.

We live, then, in exciting times, with tremendous potential for the future of our Movement. This new variety of Toc H expressions should give us great hope if we have the openness of mind to welcome it wholeheartedly. It puts a new emphasis on the concept of family which we have always seen as fundamental to Toc H — a family of people of different ages, active in different ways, but united by a common purpose.

All this, of course, raises many questions and the most important of them is: what is that common purpose? What is the 'glue' which binds us all together? I've already overrun my space so I'd better leave it to my next column to attempt an answer to that question.

about local coach hire firms, whose rates are generally very competitive. For the more energetic, cycling is a real possibility. Bicycles can be carried on most trains either free of charge or at low cost, and once here you can join the thousands of other cyclists in Oxford, or enjoy exploring the local countryside — and improve your fitness into the bargain.

However you come to Cuddesdon, you can be sure of a warm welcome, good food, and a chance to share in community life, whether for holiday or work, or just plain peace and quiet. We are looking forward to seeing you — so do come!

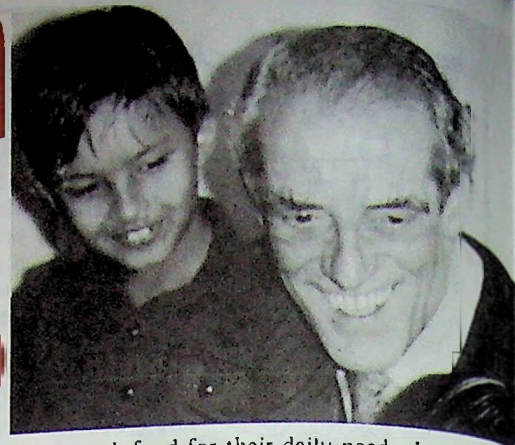


An old people's home in Corby (Northants) will be a much noisier place in future thanks to the Corby Joint Branch. They have provided a set of amplifying equipment to liven up their social evenings!

Photo: Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph



# YOU CAN HELP A CHILD



In April last year, Peter East left us after serving 25 years on the Toc H staff. He spent the last 16 years of his time with us at Talbot House, Trinity Square and worked with and made friends among the Bangladeshi community in London's East End. Peter retired five years early and went to share his life with his friends in a Bangladeshi village. He has now lived with these poor people for long enough to decide how best to help them. He outlines his plan in the following letter. This letter has already gone to every Branch in the SE Region where Peter is best known but we have decided to broaden the appeal by printing it here.

As Peter reports the progress of his project, the Director (who is maintaining a list of donors) will pass on the news.

The aim of this project is to help students from very poor families to continue studies through primary and secondary schools.

In Bangladesh 75% of the people are illiterate, 80% live below the poverty line, 90% of the children suffer from malnutrition in varying degrees. The majority are getting poorer and the number of illiterates is on the increase. 80% of primary school students drop out of school before reaching class five, 50% drop out before reaching class two, only 23% of these students start secondary school and only 3% go on to higher secondary school. 56% of the families of children who had dropped out of secondary school said they could not afford to send their children to school. 21% said their children were the only wage earners in the family.

We are operating a small pilot project in a village in district Syhlet Bangladesh. It is helping ten students to continue their studies through primary school. At this stage of the project our commitment is to one year at a time. We sought the advice of the local school teachers and of a few local people on the selection of the students. We are assisting these students by paying their school expenses, ie buying their school books, notebooks, pens etc, and buying them some clothing. We are keeping in close contact with the students and their families and teachers to check on what study or personal problems the students may have which may require further help.

We will also be helping the families of the students by getting them expert advice and encouraging them to start small extra income generating activities: where

appropriate we shall make small grants for this purpose. As the project is at an early stage it is not possible to be precise how this extra income for the families can be generated. This has to be worked through with each individual family taking into consideration their living conditions, and what skills they may have. It may take the form of keeping some chickens or ducks where the eggs could be sold, or training in some form of cottage industry. Our students come from very poor landless families. In one case the father has died and in other cases the father is so ill that he cannot hold down a job. Therefore helping the student's family to increase its income is an essential part of the project: it is the only way they can get out of the extreme poverty they are in, and be able to buy

enough food for their daily needs. It will help them to maintain their independence and dignity. For the reasons mentioned earlier it is not possible as yet to estimate the financial needs of this part of the project. However our estimated expenditure on each student for school books, notebooks, pens etc, clothing and a small reserve for medicine or other emergencies is approximately £50 a year. For the ten students we already have, that amounts to £500 a year: this money we have. The sum does not, however, include money for the small grants for income generating activities mentioned.

If you feel that this is a worthwhile project we would welcome your support. With extra funds we will be able to help more students and their families. There are no staff expenses as this is a voluntary project, so the whole amount of any donation will be used to help a needy school student or his family. If you do decide to send me a donation for this project, please send your cheque to: Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. Please make the cheque payable to Toc H, informing them it is for the 'Peter East Bangladesh Project'.

Peter East  
February 1984

## COLLECT, COLLECT!

By the time you read this, there will be only eight months of life for the halfpenny!

Why not make a drive all round your neighbourhood to collect halfpennies for Peter's Bangladesh project? You have a good cause which will appeal to many and if you push hard you can do well. But you'll need to push hard because several national charities are already in on the act! Set yourself a target for your Branch and go all out to beat it.

Doug Sobey (Gloucester) in putting forward this idea has offered a two litre bottle of champagne to the Branch or individual producing the largest sum.

I'll include a reminder in each *Point Three* issue until December and, if any of you care to send me progress reports, we'll print those. At the end of December, cash in your halfpennies and send us a cheque, payable to Toc H. We will ensure that the whole sum raised goes to Peter's project.



# Thoughts from a Leader

by Helen Powell

When I had the idea of taking a pantomime to various old folks homes and homes for the mentally handicapped, little did I know the amount of work it was going to involve, but more importantly, the amount of pleasure it would be giving to people at Christmas.

The idea grew from a feeling of wanting to do something for people left out of the Christmas celebrations. Having no dramatic, acting or singing talent, the possibility of putting on a pantomime seemed a bit wild – but it also sounded a great deal of fun. The last time I had done anything like this was at school, when I was part of a chorus line of football supporters! I liked the idea of being quite mad with a group of other mad people – and so started to organise it! This was mid-September – and on 29 December 1983 at 5 pm everything was ready – Scout Hut booked and equipped; a bag of costumes, scenery, lights and organ borrowed; venues booked; we had even had publicity on the local radio!

At 5 pm on a freezing evening, Leslie Warman and myself were waiting at Guildford Station for the volunteers to turn up. A few last minute worries. Would anyone turn up? Would we be ready to perform on Saturday afternoon? Would everyone be as bad at singing as me? Could we all fit into the minibus with the scenery props and costumes? Had the old folks homes got the dates right? Were they expecting us? What a worrier!

It turned out fine . . . fantastic even. We all got on, worked hard, enjoyed ourselves very much, and each performance was great. We were ready for our first performance on Saturday afternoon. The sea of 60 expectant faces at Primrose Court, Ash was not disappointed (we had to sing two encores). And the week went on. At Botleys Park hospital we had a specially enthusiastic response from one resident, when during the performance the orphanage parents removed Ruby's coat

and shoes. He kept yelling 'Ger 'em off Luv!'

Well, it was a successful week, great fun to do and enjoyed by our audiences. Let's hope there will be more Toc H Roadshows in 1984. I have heard rumours that two groups of people are thinking of doing it next year. How about you? If you would like some more details contact me at: SE Regional Office, 40 Argyle Road, Ilford, Essex.

Finally a comment from the principal of Heathside Home, Woking: *'Three of my residents have not smiled for two months and they smiled tonight'*. They were three ladies of over 80. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

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**Our Dynamic Cast:** Robin Biddulph, Gilles Cabon, Neil Jackson, Wayne McShane, Martin Powell, Paul Sachs, Caroline Smith, Jackie Radbone.

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# 'A Star Project is Born'

(Thoughts from a Volunteer)

by Jackie Radbone

I have never really seen myself as a star, acting with Richard Burton, or singing duets with Val Doonican, especially since I was rejected from the junior school choir and doomed to recorder lessons for the rest of my musical career. With all this in mind, I stood at Guildford Station on a windy, cold December evening, asking myself what on earth I was doing on a Toc H Pantomime Project!

An hour later we were ten potential Widow Twankies, Prince Charmings and Fairy Godmothers, tucking into our first gourmet meal of charred fish fingers in our home for the next week – an isolated Scout hut in the depths of Surrey.

Our programme was enough to make the bravest heart flutter – a day and a half of script writing and rehearsing followed by eight performances in four days. That

evening we watched our story evolve: a young girl, Ruby, at the age of 12, is heartlessly thrown out of the orphanage by the cruel and spiteful Mr and Mrs Grumbold. She sets off to find her granny in the midst of old songs (it's set in Victorian London), clever scene changes, and plagued by the inevitable baddies (Fagin and Co). The baddies, in an attempt to kidnap Ruby for their evil purposes (cooking, cleaning and washing) pretend to be granny but are caught by the trusty boys in blue to bring the story to a happy ending, reuniting granny and Ruby. So the saga of Ruby Red Riding Hood (not on ice) took to the road!

Imagine our first night (or should I say afternoon) nerves when faced with a real audience . . . Encouraged by the thought of sherry and mincepies afterwards, we sang our hearts out, and found out that

as the story progressed the response of the audience breathed life into our performance. I think I speak for all the project participants when I say that it was seeing the response of those watching that made our week worthwhile. Our panto seemed to appeal to all: young, old, mentally handicapped, residents and staff. After each performance we took the chance to talk to our audiences and listened to their memories prompted by hearing some of the songs of their youth. How many times did we hear the comment 'they don't write songs like that any more?'

The success of the project was reflected in often expressed appreciation from residents and staff and many requests that 1984 could see the return of the Toc H panto in Surrey.





*Some of the happy scenes at Luton's 1983 Marsh Farn playscheme project.*

# A DREAM COME TRUE

by Jim Lishman

It is not often that one hears of a dream becoming a reality. But a dream began for the Pickering Branch more than 12 months ago when they were challenged to raise £12,000 for the purchase of a minibus to help the sick, aged, housebound and disabled people of the district. That dream became a reality on Friday 9 September 1983 at 7 pm when

the deputy Chairman of the Social Services Committee received cheques from Toc H, the Ryedale Lions, Rotarians and Round Table and handed over the new bus.

Way back in June 1982, a small band of dedicated Toc H enthusiasts (17 in all and made up mainly of senior citizens) under the chairmanship of Jack Flintoft took up what seemed an almost impossible challenge. However, backed with zeal and high spirits, events began to get under way — jumble sales, sponsored walks, coffee mornings. Soon the whole town was buzzing with the idea of a minibus fund and various organisations were donating to the appeal. Monies came in from all sections of the community. There is always one story that stands out. An old age pensioner, hearing of the appeal, wanted to give her support and every week, when she collected her pension, never failed to call in at Jack's shop to give a donation. That was the spirit of the people of Pickering — the kind of spirit that makes dreams into a reality . . .

*'It seemed a daunting task' said Jack 'but*

Photos: Rob Cole



Photo: Weston Mercury



*At their first Christmas bazaar, Nailsea Women's Branch raised £70 towards their 'bleep' fund for district nurses and midwives at the town's health centre.*



*we were determined to succeed. We didn't care if it took five or ten years to achieve it, but we would do it and we've done it'.*

Nothing is too great a challenge for Toc H. Mrs Kath Flintoft, Branch Treasurer commented 'We knew it was a monstrous amount of money to raise, but we were determined to succeed and without the wonderful back up team of dedicated members . . . plus the generosity and enthusiasm of the people of Pickering and district, I am sure we would still be struggling on today. It's really wonderful that we have made it in such a short time'.

The Community Liaison Officer for the Social Services Department at Scarborough told me 'I am absolutely delighted with the efforts made by Toc H and the other organisations. This is the first time that we and the public have worked so close together, harmoniously, on such a project . . . We are now looking for occasional drivers. They should contact Mr Jack Flintoft who will familiarise them with the vehicle as he will be in sole charge of bookings etc . . .'

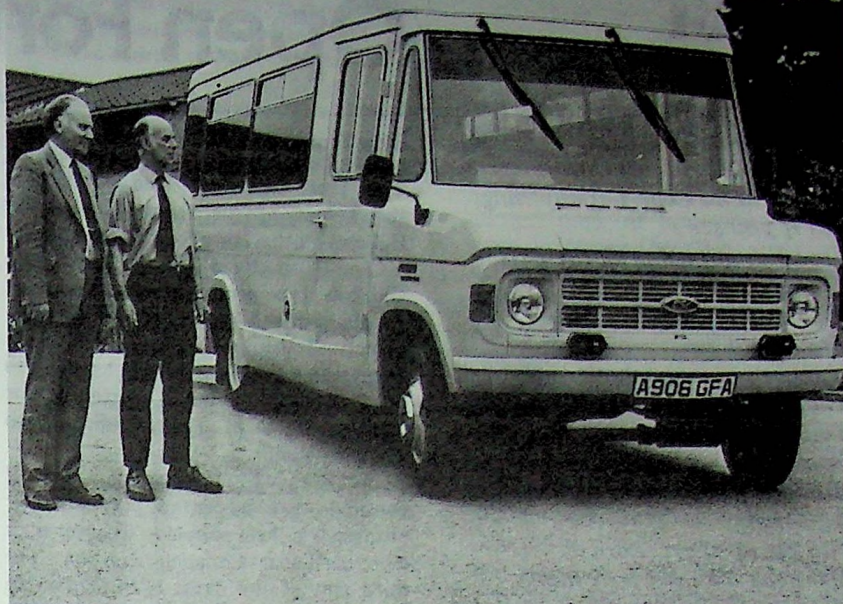


Photo: Scarborough & District Newspapers Ltd

So what began as a dream 12 months ago, now stands gleaming in its bright blue colour on the forecourt of No 5 Whitby Road, Pickering. It will bring pleasure and happiness to the people of Pickering and

District. We can safely dispel that old saying 'as dim as a Toc H Lamp' for nothing shines brighter than the lamp that burns for Toc H in Pickering!



## 'LETTER FROM AMERICA' - 5



by Margaret McGettrick

### A weekend in Washington

Having three young children is rather like being handicapped! Wherever you go, you have to plan. Pushing a double buggy is rather like being in a wheelchair — you encounter the same problems.

I first became aware of my new 'handicap' shortly after we arrived here in America. Safely esconced in a luxury hotel I was escorting my two year old and one year old to the lift. Two well dressed ladies walked up to the lift and noting my enormously expectant proportions, one exclaimed to the other, 'look at that poor soul, and another on the way!' People assume you are deaf when you are pregnant and that they can say what they like in front of you and you won't hear — you're not really there! Then they assume that you are blind when you walk around with your 'handicaps'. People stop and stare when they see us walking along. Sometimes it's amazement, sometimes amusement and sometimes embarrassment especially if we're having difficulty with steps and no-one knows whether to help or not. If we go out we have to search for ramps rather than steps, and

for lifts and escalators which are wide enough for a double buggy. Of course, if we go out for a meal, we need special feeding equipment and chairs which only a few places provide in sufficient quantities to meet our needs!

We have recently returned from a weekend in Washington DC. What a joy to visit a city planned to meet our needs. No obstacles, plenty of ramps, a super metro with no hidden obstacles.

We took a tour bus from our hotel. We were there in plenty of time to get good seats. The coach arrived and in the great rush forward, we were left to get on last, after we'd collected all the family together. One or two sympathetic people re-arranged themselves so that we could sit together. Filled with joy at the kindness of our fellow passengers we soon discovered why they were so enthusiastic to offer up their seats — the bus loo was situated at the back of the bus so that we had no view from the right of the bus at all!

However, we did listen with great interest to our guide's description of the White

House — pity we never saw it! Ah well! Jesus accepted the unwilling help of Simon in his hour of need and one willingly accepted our fellow travellers' generosity! We flew to Washington on 'People's Express'. 'People's Express' is the 'in' way to travel over here. It certainly is much cheaper. It was a great help when flying to be allowed to 'pre-board' with all our 'brood'. There, was a smiling hostess and two more at the top. My husband struggled along carrying a bag and a collapsed double buggy. I had our eight week old baby in a sling and another child in each hand trying to get up what were quite steep steps. Well, you don't pay for service, so you don't get it! It seemed ironical that those placed there to help didn't notice when help was needed! No one came to our assistance!

Despite our 'handicaps' we had a super weekend. Well, they may seem like handicaps to others but we certainly wouldn't be without them.

*Yours ever  
Margaret*



# After St Francis

*Lord, I'm no expert at anything,  
But if you see  
That I'm not using all the gifts  
You've given me,  
If I've more time or talents  
You could use,  
If there's an opportunity  
That I might lose  
To heal a wound  
Or mend a broken life,  
Bring love in place of ugliness  
And strife,  
Pull me up short, Lord,  
Make me take stock of things,  
Help me to understand  
What loving brings.*

*Are there dark places  
Where I could bring light?  
Has someone doubts and fears  
I could put to flight?  
Could I bring hope where now  
There's dark despair?  
Where there is sadness  
Let me put joy there.*

*Make me your instrument  
And use me well,  
Heeding not wounds or weariness,  
Self pity quell.  
Consume me, Lord, for when I think  
My strength is gone,  
I know I still have yours  
To draw upon.*

Betty Cornick

# Open Forum

## The Toc H and All Hallows Trust

The Trust was established in 1927 at the behest of the then Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower and Founder Padre of Toc H, the Revd P B Clayton, CH. In addition to cementing the bond between All Hallows and Toc H, it had three main objects: To support Church of England clergymen working as Toc H chaplains; to help finance a Toc H hostel in the neighbourhood of Tower Hill; and to assist Ordinands.

Both All Hallows and Toc H consider that a central part of their purpose is to help people to discover their own particular Christian vocation. The third aim of the Trust is to help those from Toc H or All Hallows whose vocation is in the ordained ministry of the Church of England. Ordinands find it very difficult to make ends meet financially during the period of training; and for many of them the small grants which the Trust is able to offer make all the difference. Grants are usually for the ever increasing cost of books, and also for help at time of ordination with its inevitable expenses incurred in buying robes and settling into a new home.

The Trust is both encouraged and embarrassed by the increase in requests for help in recent years. Encouraged because it proves that both All Hallows and Toc H are still playing an important part in helping people to recognise and respond to their vocation to the priesthood. Embarrassed, because it just does not have the funds to respond appropriately to the increasing demands. Currently seven people, members either

of All Hallows or of Toc H (in some cases of both) are in training for the ministry. The Trust's income of about £1,000 a year makes it impossible to provide significant help to this number of people.

Rather than say no, or offer purely token help, we believe that we have a responsibility, both to the people concerned (and their successors) and to those who had the vision to establish the Trust over 55 years ago, to seek additional funds. We need to double our present income if we are to respond realistically to the demands made on us.

The need is urgent. Only with your prompt help can we give practical assistance to the extent we consider is essential to those now in training, and to others who will shortly be starting.

We hope that this appeal will receive generous response not only from individuals but also from Districts and Branches.

Contributions should be sent to the Trust's Secretary. He is: John E Pierce, 16 Morella Road, Wandsworth Common, London SW12 8UH. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Toc H and All Hallows Trust'.

Malcolm Galloway  
Thurlstone, S Devon  
Trust Chairman

## Freedom and the law

In Toc H we are always willing to listen to the views of others. But Keith Rea's 'Personal View' (February issue) is a bit over the top. Apparently the 'draconian unprecedented' police drink-drive

Photo: Bridlington Free Press



Bridlington's TAG raised £70 at an open night to help them provide toys for the children's unit at Brandesburton Hospital.

Photo: Dorset News



Weymouth's Toc H Beavers (in fancy dress) toured 14 pubs in the town in their 1983 'Boggin Hunt'. They raised £80 towards the cost of the Christmas party for underprivileged children.



Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

campaign of last Christmas caused innocent drinking motorists to be 'hounded'. Not to mention causing some innocent lives to be saved, of course.

Mr Rea throws in a few more examples of our oppression by Big Brother using the rule of law — offences against racial minorities, unfair discrimination against women and the disabled, abuse of power by the Trade Unions, are all now against the law, as well as merely anti-social.

Personally I don't object too much to the law being used to curtail my neighbour's freedom to get drunk and kill me with his car. As for 'saving the rest of us from ourselves', why, I can see it all clearly now — health warnings on cigarette packets, seat belts, speed limits, customs duty on spirits, prohibiting bear baiting — all are manifestations of dear old BB turning the screws on the oppressed majority.

Come off it, Keith!

Alan Mason  
Market Harborough

### Main Resolution — letter and spirit

*Point Three* is taken by every member of our Branch, and we often have evenings for *Point Three* readings and discussions. It is because of the comment by Christine Bostock in the February issue, that I am putting pen to paper.

It is sad if members do not remember the Main Resolution. In this Branch, on Family Night, once a month, we repeat the Main Resolution together, after the Ceremony of Light. This way we

are constantly reminded of the high ideals of Toc H — hard to follow, but binding us in fellowship.

Our Founder Padre — Revd 'Tubby' Clayton — was once heard to say, 'However tired you are, remember to say the Lord's Prayer and the Toc H Prayer every night'. These two prayers cover so many of our needs and hopes.

We keep 'sharing our caring' and feel it is attitudes more than age which are important in every part of Toc H life.

Best wishes to all members of staff and the Central Council. We thank you for all contributions to furthering 'God's Show' — Toc H.

Mollie Maullin  
Bitterne, Southampton

### I remember!

*Point Three* is especially interesting to me as I am over 100 miles from the nearest Branch, but became a member of Toc H 53 years ago. Has Toc H changed since then? I remember amongst other things, in West London, Hitchin District and places where my work took me:

(a) Straw Debates. About ten motions were written on slips and put into a hat with blanks to make up the number. Everyone, except discretionary exemptions, drew a slip. We then had tea (no slip swapping!) We then in turn spoke for five minutes to our slip (except the lucky blanks). Just before speaking, we drew a 'for' or 'against' card, which told us which side to argue, riding somebody else's hobby-horse, probably facing

backwards. The results were usually amusing, sometimes startling, but never embarrassing among friends. But we did think of both sides to any question. (*Point Three?*)

(b) We were very shy about money raising, even for the best causes, including the Family Purse. Jobmasters tried to find us jobs which essentially brought us into personal contact with somebody quite different. Some thought that money raising could become too impersonal. (c) We tried to be a 'human zoo'. This did not mean rejecting any specimen because we already had one like that, but we consciously tried to collect specimens which we lacked. This was not easy, but it improved the mixture. (d) We selected some guest speakers with whom we disagreed. In 1933 we got to South Paddington an ardent Nazi, from the German Embassy. We were polite but unconverted!

Is Toc H less crazy now?

Francis Wayne  
Sutherland

### Brightening your lamp

We in Gorleston Joint Branch were discussing the letter from Gloucester about polishing their lamp (February 'Open Forum'). Ours has never been polished but we know not why. Perhaps, as one member said (well done, Nora!), 'it is because they make Brasso and Silvo but not Bronzo'.

Betty Brooks  
Great Yarmouth

Photo: Kentish Express



As their contribution to Ashford's Children's Day (the town's great annual family festival), Toc H members worked with local scouts to pack 1,400 food parcels.

Photo: Oxford & County Newspapers



South Oxfordshire's youth training scheme supplied a team to work on the major conversion of the chapel at Cuddesdon House. When the picture was taken, the ground work was just beginning; now the project is virtually finished. The official opening day will be 8 May when the Archbishop of Canterbury will rededicate the chapel.



# BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here for £2 per annum. The Publications Department at Wendover now has copies of 'Joyful Journey' — the replacement volume for 'Yours is the Glory', which is out of print. The price is £1 (+50p p & p). The Chaplain will send you the complete list of daily intercessions on request.

## BORDON LETTER

by Revd Wynford Phillips

Heath Robinson's drawings, weird and wonderful, often mechanical in design, have always 'tickled me pink...'. A prize example of his art (in the form of a plastic apron) hangs up in our kitchen. It depicts a scene from far away and long ago, when mankind was 'all at sea' and Noah and his family and some livestock were on a rescue mission. However the artist shows the boat in dry dock. One passenger in the bows is looking distinctly queasy, others are polishing the windows, and one is putting on the final lick of paint. On the roof, distinctly uncomfortable, and in a great huddle, one on top of the other, and all cramped for space are the elephant, the giraffe, the lion, and the lesser fry. Caption: 'What I say is that the local Inspector for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should look into it!' Looking at it, and imagining I could understand what the animals were saying — I got the message 'Stop the world I want to get off!'

Of course we know perfectly well that we can't. We can, however, with the faith of a Noah, or an Abraham, journey onwards, outwards and upwards, striving to make sense of the challenges which come daily to us. God knows there are enough of these — cultural, economic, political, ecological etc. At least, to hang on to my metaphor, let us 'keep on putting the boat out'. There must be no

invitation to any Michael 'to row the boat ashore'. My life has always been enriched by associations with men and women, either as literary figures or 'clothed with flesh', who have 'disowned discouragement' and 'leapt with joy'. Two illustrations must suffice, one ancient, one modern.

I am indebted to Canon Simon Barrington Ward, General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society for his comment about Abraham in a CMS Newsletter. Of the violent, confused Middle East situation, he pertinently remarks 'Surely the real spiritual re-birth which Islam, Judaism and Christianity need will be found in a return to Abraham, in whom all three of them find their roots. Abraham summons all three to renounce the security of material power and dominance, to leave the familiar and the enclosed, and to step out in faith to an unknown destination. Abraham's faith is needed, also his traditional openness and hospitality to others, with his abiding conviction that there exists, with whom to have fellowship, an ever present compassionate God.'

Lately, I took leave for a while at his funeral of a very dear friend, a 'man of faith'. I described him as a lively personality of quicksilver mind, for ever vigorously challenging traditional authority, industrious, creative, sensitive, spontaneously loyal and generous. He has gone ahead like other 'elder brethren' (though he himself was not a Toc H member) to explore, to discover, and to develop.

So onward let it be daily for us to more light, more truth, and most of all more love.

## 'An Eye for a Gem -a Gem for an Eye

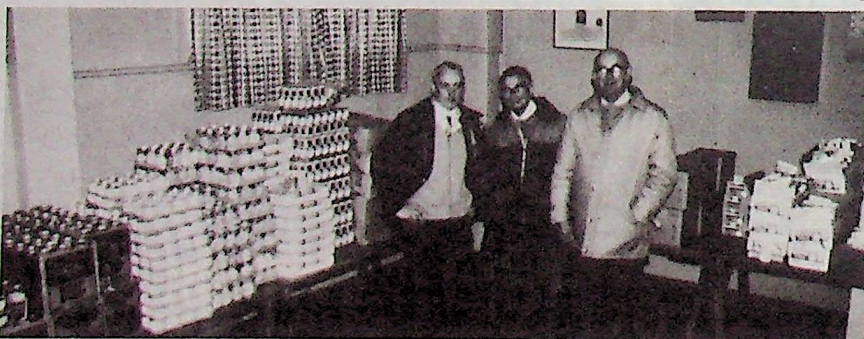


This is LEPRO's 60th anniversary year and for almost 50 of those years Toc H has given it strong support. In 1935, Tubby was in Nigeria and, horrified by the plight of the leprosy sufferers there, he called on all Toc H members to support LEPRO (then BELRA) in its work. We still retain a Toc H representative on LEPRO's executive.

Below we are publishing this year's special LEPRO appeal and in a future issue we plan to feature LEPRO's work over their 60 years. Previous major Toc H features on this theme appeared in our June 1977 and May 1983 issues: a few single copies of those issues are still available from Wendover (price 25p per copy, including postage). — Editor

LEPRO has launched a jewellery appeal in their Diamond Jubilee year. They plan to raise £100,000 for the prevention of blindness in leprosy patients. Loss of sight is an overwhelming handicap for someone who may already have lost sense of feeling in hands and feet. There may be as many as three quarters of a million such sufferers and only one in three is receiving treatment. LEPRO plans to train and equip more doctors and paramedical workers and to finance visits by overseas ophthalmic surgeons prepared to train local people.

LEPRO will be grateful for any items of precious jewellery. These should be sent to: LEPRO, PO Box 666, London WC2R 0LS.



Each year since 1960, Budleigh Salterton Branch has bought, packed and delivered Christmas food parcels to local elderly residents. In 1983, their total bag was 335 parcels, valued at almost £1,200.



Photos: Bill Humphries



# We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.  
—Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## In December

Marion Barton (Merseyside District)  
Mary Clark (Deal & Walmer)  
Lilian A Leigh (Newbury)  
Charles W Sturman (Attleborough)

## In January

Bernard J P Day (Ilminster)  
John D Dutton (Huddersfield District)  
Edward Fish (Barrow-on-Humber)  
Stanley G Gosling (Whetstone & Finchley)  
Frederick P Harwood (Wymondham)  
Thomas T Kennedy (Strathclyde District)  
Francis K Martin (Penrith)  
Alice B Pearce (Wimborne)  
Philip J N Penlington (Wymondham)  
Stanley T Stillwell (Greathouse)  
Sarah A 'Nancy' Topham (Wem)

## In February

E George Greenway (New Addington)  
Howard Hall (Margate)  
Eva Lumley (Cleveland District)  
John T Morris (Chirk)  
Eileen Taylor (Ecclesfield)  
Dorothy K Wildgoose (Downend)

**Brother Stephen Lambert** died in Auckland, New Zealand on 1 February at the age of 78. Stephen joined the Toc H staff in 1931 as West Midlands Area Organiser. He came to us from South America where he had been a member of Valparaiso Branch. He learned to fly during this period as a member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. He spent three years in the West Midlands and, thanks to his enthusiastic leadership, the number of Branches there almost doubled during this period. In 1934, Stephen left the Toc H staff to join the Anglican Franciscan Order. He was ordained in 1940 and spent the war years in a series of London parishes. For part of the time he served as a curate at All Hallows, helping out in the Services Club at St Stephens. Since 1945 he has been serving as a Franciscan missionary in Papua, New Guinea, Zambia and the Solomon Islands.

Recently we reported the death in November of **William Causon** of Wessex District. Bill joined Toc H at Melrose in 1940 and carried out active work in Egypt during wartime service with the RAF. Later he was a member of Boscombe Branch, becoming a District member when the Branch closed. For many years he served as an efficient and much loved District Treasurer. We send our sympathy to his widow and his son.

**Helen Brown**, a member for some 30 years - first in Felixstowe and latterly in Trimley Branch - died last December: she was 77. For many years, Helen had worked in Abbeyfield Houses and in a home for the deaf and dumb. Always willing to help in any way she could, she was held in high regard by all who knew her. As one old friend said, *'Helen put into deeds that in which she believed'*.

**Charles William Sturman**, a member of Attleborough Branch for some 30 years, died in December. The funeral service in his Methodist church attracted so many people that the Church Hall was pressed into use as well. Charles was a devoted Toc H worker with a very wide sweep of interests, ranging from his duties as a Church Steward to his concern with the Naturalist Trust and RSPB and his abiding interest in photography. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

'Rosey' Romanis writes to tell us of the recent deaths of two Wem stalwarts, **Mary Gregory** (in December) and Branch Secretary **Nancy Topham** (in January). Mary first joined Toc H in 1934 and became a Builder in 1975. In a short time, says 'Rosey' Mary *'had made her mark in Wem and . . . gave me great support in the local town'*. He goes on, *' . . . I arranged with Nancy Topham that she and I would represent Toc H at Mary's cremation service . . . She was her usual self, still giving Toc H priority in her busy life . . . She never spared herself in the cause of others, especially the aged and infirm and MS sufferers . . . Three days before Mary's cremation service, Nancy was found dead in bed. I attended Mary's funeral on the Tuesday and Nancy's on the Friday - a rather sad week for the Branch . . . '*

**Francis Martin**, a founder member of Penrith Branch, died suddenly in January at the age of 82 - clearing snow for his neighbours! Frank had been a member for 54 years and was a familiar and much admired figure throughout Lakeland. Peth Whitfield, an old friend, writes: *' . . . We shall remember him for his humour and understanding and his deep sense of caring. He will be sadly missed but his bright spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.'*

**Bernard Day**, the much loved Treasurer of Ilminster Branch, died in January, aged 72, after a long and painful illness. Bernard moved to Ilminster from London on his retirement and at once took a great

interest in local affairs - an interest he kept to the end. Apart from his regular Toc H involvement, he was actively concerned with the Minster, League of Friends, Vaughan Lee House, Red Cross and British Legion. A Branch colleague writes: *'It is not easy to remember all the good deeds Bernard did - for example, his daily shopping trips for his elderly neighbours at Holway House where he also tended their gardens, looked after their 'electrics', decorated and repaired their homes, collected their pensions and doctors' prescriptions and medicines, and helped them in other ways.'*

*'Ilminster will miss him and so especially will his colleagues in Toc H, where we had our own opportunities to observe and admire a friendly, kind, patient, understanding, and generous spirited man who never spared himself in the service of others . . . '*

**Hylda Batchelar** died in January, aged 95. She will be remembered affectionately as Hylda Jardine, the friendly and ever cheerful hostess of 42 Lunch Club in the 30s. Later she married Geoffrey Batchelar, then Warden of 42 Trinity Square and a staunch supporter of Tower Hill Branch. After the war, Geoff was ordained at Salisbury Cathedral and they spent the rest of their lives in the Salisbury diocese. Hylda had lived by herself since Geoff's death in 1964, and for the last year was in a Dorchester Nursing Home.

MG

*'Miss Eileen Taylor, a much loved and valued member of Ecclesfield Branch for over 40 years, died in February. During those years she served many times in the office of Pilot, Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer and represented the South Yorkshire District on many occasions at both Regional and National level. She was Headmistress of the Infant School for 23 years and was a well known and respected figure in the village. As well as her untiring and devoted work for Toc H, she was also Secretary of the PPC. Eileen was a true Christian who gave so much of herself to others. She will be sadly missed and remembered by all who knew her but especially by all her friends in the Movement.'*

EN

We give thanks for their lives



# Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Visit the battlefields of the Old Western Front in the company of Lyn Macdonald, author of *Somme* and *They Called it Passchendaele*. Three departures only. Somme (for 1 July) 29 June; Mons (for 70th Anniversary) 22 August; Ypres (for Armistice) 8 November. Details from Genesta, 34 North End Road, Steeple Claydon, Bucks MK18 2PG.

Clacton - 5 berth Caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities include pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. May/June - £45 pw, July - £50 pw, August - £60 pw, September - £45 pw. Full details from Mr J A Turner, 60 Hall End Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9HP. Telephone: 0234 768410.

Llandudno, N Wales. Family run licenced hotel, opp pier, mins from shops and entertainments. Parties up to 35 catered for. Colour brochure on request. Bed, breakfast, evening dinner opt. Elms Hotel, Llandudno. Tel: 0492 78511. Under new management. Vacancies Easter and coming season.

Jaywick, Clacton, Essex. Sea wall chalet, ideal for two adults, can sleep three. Car parking available, near shops. All electric. April to October £30 pw. Apply: Miss Nicolls, 38 Kings Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

Weymouth - Inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £85. Coach both ways, free excursions. Bed, breakfast and evening meal at hotel. Suntours, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £10.50 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings. Ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Hunstanton, Norfolk, five berth caravan fully equipped, electricity, TV, excellent site facilities. May/June £45 pw, July/August £55 pw, September £45 pw. Sorry no dogs. Telephone: Kings Lyn 673895.

Holidays from May onwards  
Mid-Somerset - furnished Olde Worlde cottage, sleeps 4-5.  
Mid-Wales - Hillside farm, 4 berth caravan. Tel: 0458 42170.

Self catering accommodation wanted, preferably Kent coast, suitable for Lee Toc H to send an elderly couple who need a week's holiday. Telephone: 01 857 7279.

Dick Moody MPS of Clacton on Sea, Essex (Toc H member for 40 years) is looking for a fellow pharmacist. Scope for a lively private life. Write giving details of self and requirements. All letters will be acknowledged from 130 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3LU.

Fund Raising. Spring flower bulbs for resale at direct from grower prices. Good profits to be made on quality daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths etc. Add a new dimension to your Autumn Fayres, Coffee Mornings etc. Price list sent on request. M K & B Chappell, Fengate Road, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs. Tel: Pinchbeck Bars 381.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

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